

Metropolitan Asylum District.

765
THE
EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE FOR DARENTH ASYLUM AND SCHOOLS

FOR

IMBECILES,

To 31ST DECEMBER, 1881.

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COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT.

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Mr. W. F. JEBB, *Clerk to the Board.*



EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Committee for the Darentb Asylum and Schools.

January 1st, 1882.

To the Managers of the Metropolitan Asylum District.

The prevalence in the Metropolis during the past twelve months of a Smallpox epidemic of exceptional severity, necessitating as it did the adoption by the Managers of extraordinary measures to cope efficiently with its exigencies, rendered of unusual interest the labours of your Committee, since upon them was imposed a not inconsiderable share of such responsibility as was entailed by the elaboration and development of schemes initiated by the Board for grappling with the disease at a time when it assumed proportions the most formidable, and when, by reason of the Hampstead Hospital being no longer available for the purposes for which it was erected, the accommodation at the Managers' disposal was altogether inadequate to the emergency.

Your Committee make reference to the establishment at Darentb of a Camp for the reception of convalescing Smallpox cases; to the fitting up and furnishing of Hospital Ships for the treatment of patients suffering from the disease in its acute stages; and to the inauguration of an Ambulance system for the removal of patients to Hospital.

The control of the Hospital Ships "Atlas" and "Endymion" having recently been delegated by the Board to a Committee specially appointed for the purpose, it will be sufficient if your Committee here direct attention to Dr. Fraser's valuable and exhaustive report respecting the capacity of the "Atlas," wherein it is satisfactorily demonstrated that in such vessel the Managers possess an admirably appointed hospital, capable of affording accommodation, if necessary, for upwards of two hundred patients.

Similarly will it be sufficient if your Committee record the success which has attended the working of the Ambulance Station at George Street, London Fields, that establishment being now under the management of the Committee for Homerton Hospitals.

The Camp at Darenth was opened for the reception of convalescent Smallpox patients on the 11th May. From that time to the end of the year 2,743 cases were admitted, the largest number under canvas at any one time being no less than 640.

The very able manner in which the duties of the officials in charge of this Camp were performed cannot be more satisfactorily evidenced than by a recital of the fact that, during the seven months which have elapsed since its establishment, no authenticated instance of the disease having spread without the encampment has been recorded; and your Committee would take the present opportunity of expressing to these officials their appreciation of the excellency of their endeavours, and their estimation of the worth of their work.

It should here be stated that the establishment of the Smallpox Encampment on the Asylum grounds entailed the

stoppage of admissions to that establishment, and rendered inexpedient the annual inspection of that institution and the Schools by the Managers.

The erection of the Infirmaries at the Adult Asylum has proceeded satisfactorily.

Appended are the reports of the Principal Officers of the Asylum and Schools, together with that of the Commissioners in Lunacy after visiting those Institutions.

The daily average cost per head for the maintenance and clothing of the patients in the Adult Asylum, and of the children in the Schools, has been at the rate of $10\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 10d. for the half-years ended at Lady-day and Michaelmas respectively.

For the consideration and courtesy with which their recommendations have at all times been received by the Board, your Committee record their warmest thanks.

(Signed) EDM. HAY CURRIE,

Chairman.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE ASYLUM FOR ADULT IMBECILES.

December 31st, 1881.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Report of this Asylum for the year 1881, and regret that circumstances have occurred during the year that have prevented the Asylum being more fully developed.

Last May, just as the new blocks were about to be opened, it was found necessary, for the benefit of the Metropolis, that their hospitals for cases of Smallpox should be relieved of cases becoming convalescent, so as to afford room for more acute cases, that could not then be admitted for want of accommodation. So as Darent was a healthy spot and there was room in the Asylum grounds, a hospital camp of tents was formed, and the new blocks, which were situated near the camp, were thus prevented from being opened for the reception of imbeciles.

The tent encampment was continued till the autumn, when, the weather proving too severe for out-door life, the camp was struck, and much to our regret, it was found necessary to remove the convalescent Smallpox patients into the new blocks, so still further delaying the reception of imbeciles into them.

The blocks, however, will, after the departure of the Smallpox cases, be thoroughly disinfected, so that they can be

used without any danger to the people who will afterwards occupy them. Of course we cut off all communication between the blocks containing imbeciles and the Smallpox blocks, and there was also a separate medical man to attend on the Smallpox cases. The cooking and washing for the imbeciles was done over at the Schools, and no person connected with the Smallpox Department used to visit the blocks containing the imbeciles, and most of the imbeciles and nurses were revaccinated.

The number of patients in this Asylum on December 31st was 199 women, 24 men—total, 223.

29 women were admitted during the year; 6 women and 1 man were discharged; and 22 women died.

Of the 6 women discharged, 2 were not deemed suitable cases for this Asylum.

For reasons already stated, we had to depend on the Schools for our washing and cooking, and we have to thank them for the willing aid they afforded us.

We still use the School Chapel, but although there are separate services for the two Asylums, and so more room is acquired, yet the inconvenience arising from wet weather is still felt a great deal by some of the patients, and who are often for that reason compelled to remain away.

The amusements of the patients have been attended to as much as possible during the year, and in the summer the men played cricket, and the women were provided with a tent in the field and out-door amusements.

During the autumn some afternoon excursions were made in the neighbourhood, and enjoyed by most of the patients in turn. At Christmas they had a tree, with numerous useful presents on it for distribution amongst them.

Dancing, however, they can seldom enjoy, although it is a pleasure that many of them would join in, as at present there is no recreation room for them, and their blocks are too crowded to clear a space big enough for them to dance in, without inconveniencing the other patients; also, if they had a combined recreation and dining hall, their own blocks could become sweetened and purified during their absence at meal times, which, as it is now, the blocks never have an opportunity in wet weather of ever becoming so, as they are occupied constantly from morning to night; and although we are allowed the use of the hall over at the Schools, yet during the winter weather there are many patients who cannot venture so far in the dark and wet evenings, and consequently suffer much disappointment.

At present the men's blocks are not opened, and we have only a small number of boys over from the Schools, but they are employed as much as possible in the shoemakers' and tailors' shops. The female patients do needlework, and help to keep their wards and dormitories tidy, and will help in the kitchen and laundry when they are again thrown open to imbeciles.

The chief changes amongst the staff have been male attendants, and I think this would less frequently occur if we could engage married men; but at present there is no accommodation for their wives to live on the Asylum grounds

or in the neighbourhood of the Asylum. Some Asylums have cottages specially built for that purpose, and it generally ensures a steady class of men.

The usual tables showing the various causes of death, the number of admissions and discharges, &c., are appended.

The Commissioners paid us their annual visit in December, and promised to forward their report at a future date, having left a short satisfactory statement of their inspection.

During the epidemic of Smallpox the regular visiting to patients was stopped; but in cases of illness the friends were allowed to visit when they wished to, and notice was sent to that effect.

In conclusion I have to thank the Committee for their continued support and kindness.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) T. B. DYER,

Medical Superintendent.

*The Chairman and Committee,
Darenth Adult Asylum.*

TABLE I.

Showing the Admissions, Re-admissions, Discharges, and Deaths during the Year 1881.

	Male.		Female.		Total.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Total.
In the Asylum, 1st January, 1881	...	...	...	...	...	...
Admitted for the first time during the Year	...	28	...	...	28	28
Re-admitted during the Year...	...	1	...	...	1	1
Total under care during the Year	...	...	...	...	...	...
Discharged or Removed—						
Recovered	...	...	...	...	...	...
Relieved	...	...	...	...	...	...
Not Improved	...	...	...	...	...	...
Died...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total Discharged (for various reasons) and Died during the Year	...	...	...	...	...	...
Remaining in the Asylum, 31st December, 1881	...	...	...	...	...	...
Average numbers resident during the Year	...	...	...	...	...	...
Highest number resident on any one day	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lowest number resident on any one day	...	...	...	...	...	...
	25	198	25	198	223	223

	25	227	25	227	252	252
	1	4	1	4	5	5

	...	2	...	2	2	2
	...	22	...	22	22	22
	...	28	...	28	29	29
	24	199	24	199	223	223
	24.43	197.04	24.43	197.04	221.47	221.47
	25	202	25	202	227	227
	24	194	24	194	218	218

TABLE II.

Showing the Admissions, Re-admissions, and Discharges, from the opening of the Asylum to the present date, 31st December, 1881.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Admitted during the period of two years	...	...	...
Re-admissions	...	...	...
Total of cases admitted	...	...	...
Discharged or Removed:—			
	Male.	Female.	Total.
Recovered	1	4	5
Relieved	...	2	2
Not Improved	...	11	11
Died	...	30	30
Total Discharged and Died during the two years	...	...	...
Remaining, 31st December, 1881	...	...	...
Average numbers resident during the two years	...	...	...
	25	245	270
	...	1	1
	25	246	271
	1	47	48
	24	199	223
	23·38	175·03	194·7

TABLE III.

Showing the Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths; with the Mean Annual Mortality and proportion of Recoveries per cent. of the Admissions for each year since the opening of the Asylum.

Opening of the Asylum.

Year.	Admitted.			Discharged.									Died.			Remaining 31st December in each year.			Average Numbers Resident.			Percentage of Recoveries on Admissions.			Percentage of Deaths on Average Numbers Resident.		
				Recovered.			Relieved.			Not Improved.																	
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1880	25	217	242	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	9	9	...	8	8	25	198	223	24.04	139.84	...	...	...	...	...	5.15	5.69
1881	...	29	29	1	4	5	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	22	22	24	199	223	24.4	197.04	221.47	...	13.7	17.2	...	11.16	9.93

TABLE IV.

Classifying under the usual denominations of Mental Disease the Mental Condition of the Patients admitted during the year 1882.

MENTAL DISEASES.								Males.	Females.	Totals.
Imbecile and of weak mind	15	15
Dementia	4	4
Chronic mania	7	7
Idiots	1	1
Senile Dementia...	1	1
Melancholia	1	1
								29



TABLE V.

Showing the History of the Annual Admissions since the opening of the Asylum, with the Discharges and Deaths, and the numbers remaining on the 31st December of each year, and of the year reported on.

Admitted.						Of each Year's Admissions, Discharged and Died in 1881.												Total Discharged and Died of each Year's Admissions to 31st December, 1881.												Remaining of each Year's Admissions, 31st Dec., 1881.		
Year.	New Cases.		Relapsed Cases.		Total.	Recovered.			Relieved.			Not Improved.			Died.			Recovered.			Relieved.			Not Improved.			Died.			Males.	Females.	Total.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.		Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.			
1880	25	217	...	...	242	1	2	3	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	22	22	1	2	3	...	2	2	...	11	11	...	30	30	24	172	196
1881	...	28	...	1	29	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27	27
Totals	25	245	...	1	271	1	4	5	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	22	...	1	4	5	...	2	2	...	11	11	...	30	30	24	199	223

Summary of the Total Admissions.							Males.	Females.	Both sexes.
Percentage of cases Recovered ...							4	1·6	2·03
„ „ Relieved ...							...	·81	·73
„ „ Not Improved ...							...	4·4	4·05
„ „ Dead ...							...	12·15	11·07
„ „ Remaining ...							96	76·82	82·25

TABLE VI.

Showing the causes of Death during the year 1881, together with the Ages of the Decedents.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	16		17		18		19		20 to 29		30 to 39		40 to 49		50 to 59		60 to 69		70 to 79		80 to 89		TOTAL.			
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Total.	
CEREBRAL OR SPINAL DISEASES—																										
Apoplexy and Paralysis	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	
Epilepsy and Convulsions	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	4
General Paresis	2	...	...	...	1	...	3	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	10	10	
THORACIC DISEASE—																										
Inflammation of the Lungs, Pleuræ and Bronchitis	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	3	3		
Pulmonary Consumption	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1		
ABDOMINAL DISEASE—																										
Inflammation and Ulceration of the Stomach, Intes- tines, or Peritoneum	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1		
Hæmorrhagic Purpura	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1			
Totals	...	1	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	1	...	4	...	3	...	3	...	2	...	22	22

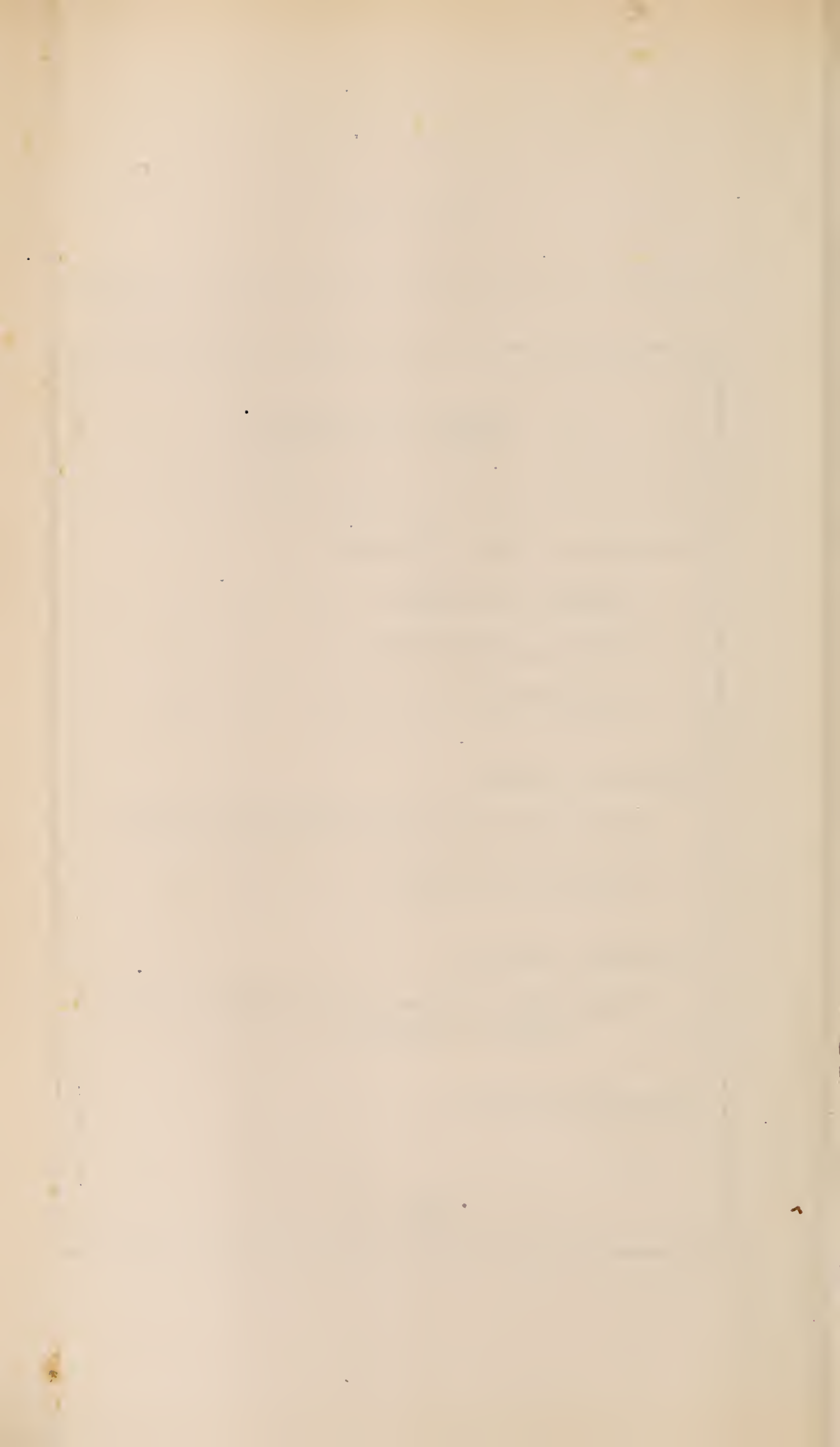


TABLE VII.

Showing the length of Residence in those discharged Recovered, and in those who have died during the year.

LENGTH OF RESIDENCE.	RECOVERED.			DIED.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Under 1 Month	1	1
From 1 to 3 Months	2	2	...	4	4
„ 3 to 6 „	1	1
„ 6 to 9 „	4	4
„ 9 to 12 „	1	1	2	...	4	4
„ 1 to 2 Years	1	1	...	8	8
„ 2 to 3 „
„ 3 to 5 „
„ 5 to 7 „
„ 7 to 10 „
„ 10 to 12 „
	1	4	5	...	22	22

TABLE VIII.

Showing the Ages of Patients resident in the Asylum on 31st December in each year ; calculated from the Ages stated on the Orders of Admission.

Years ending December 31st.	16		17		18		19		20		20 to 29		30 to 39		40 to 49		50 to 59		60 to 69		70 to 79		80 to 89		90 to 99		Ages not known.		Totals.		
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Totals.
1880 ...	8	12	1	13	6	12	3	12	...	...	7	41	...	24	...	18	...	24	...	26	...	10	...	6	...	...	...	...	25	198	223
1881 ...	...	9	8	13	1	13	5	11	...	...	10	52	...	23	...	20	...	22	...	22	...	6	...	6	...	1	...	1	24	119	223



TABLE IX.

Showing the Ages of the Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths during the year.

AGES.	Admissions.			Discharges.			Deaths.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Recovered.		Removed, Relieved, or otherwise.	Male.	Female.	Total.
				Male.	Female.				
From 5 to 10 years
" 10 " 15
" 15 " 20	...	13	13	1	...	...	...	5	5
" 20 " 30	...	6	6	1	1	...	...	2	2
" 30 " 40	...	4	4	...	2	...	...	2	2
" 40 " 50	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	1
" 50 " 60	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	4	4
" 60 " 70	...	2	2	...	1	...	...	3	3
" 70 " 80	3	3
" 80 " 90	2	2
" 90 and upwards
Ages unknown...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL	...	29	29	1	4	5	...	2	22

REPORT OF THE MATRON OF THE
ADULT ASYLUM.

*To the Chairman and Committee of the Darenth Asylum for
Adult Imbeciles.*

GENTLEMEN,

In presenting you with my Annual Report for the year 1881, I am at the outset met with the difficulty that the Asylum, so far as the Matron's Department is concerned, has been practically closed for Imbeciles.

In consequence of the severe epidemic of Smallpox which has visited the metropolis during the past year, the whole of the Asylum (including the administrative block) has, with the exception of two outlying blocks, been occupied by Smallpox convalescents. Patients and the adult imbeciles in the two blocks referred to were, with the addition of the staff in attendance upon them, administered to from the Schools Asylum.

Under these circumstances, I feel that I have nothing of interest to report to you, and can only express a hope that as soon as the epidemic in question abates the Committee will be in a position to restore the Asylum to the purpose for which it was originally intended.

I would simply add that the whole of the administrative staff, who were appointed when the Asylum was first opened for imbeciles, elected to remain in their situations when the Asylum was converted into a temporary Convalescent Hospital for Smallpox patients, rather than leave your service—a fact speaking loudly of their appreciation of your kindness and consideration towards them.

In conclusion, I beg to tender to the Committee my sincere thanks for their uniform kindness and courtesy, and remain,

Gentlemen,

Very obediently yours,

(Signed)

AGNES GOWER,

Matron.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE SCHOOLS.

To the Chairman and Committee of Darenth Schools.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1881.

On the 31st of December, 1880, there were in the Schools 285 males and 179 females; total, 464. During the past year 116 have been received, of whom 67 were males and 49 females. Thirty patients—viz., 10 males and 20 females—have been discharged, and 39—viz., 22 males and 17 females—have died. The total number under treatment has been 580, the average daily number resident 489, and the number in the Schools on the 31st of December, 1881, 511—an increase of 47 over the number resident on the corresponding date a year ago.

ADMISSIONS.

The admissions have not been quite so numerous as in the preceding year. Thus, in 1880, 143 patients were admitted; in 1881, 116, a difference of 27. This is to some extent accounted for by the fact that during the last four months the Asylum has contained over 500 children, the

number which it was intended to accommodate, and hence the Clerks to the Guardians and others may have supposed that no more cases could be admitted. By a re-arrangement of beds, however, accommodation has been provided for 550 patients. The remark which I had occasion to make last year with reference to the condition of those admitted, viz., that they were largely composed of the helpless and epileptic class, I regret to say still holds good, and these cases are accumulating in large numbers.

RE-ADMISSIONS.

One boy and one girl have been re-admitted. The boy was taken out by the mother, with the consent of the Guardians, as she thought that he had sufficiently improved to be managed at home. This, however, proved to be not the case, and very shortly after his discharge he was re-admitted.

Many such cases are resident here, and indeed it often happens that a child who gives his parents considerable trouble, soon after admission settles down, and requires only the ordinary supervision. Much more improvement than existed in the case referred to must take place before a patient is fit to be given up to the care of his friends. The girl was taken out, I believe, because the mother refused to pay for the child's maintenance, but, being found unmanageable, was re-admitted.

DISCHARGES.

Only 30 patients have been discharged, the great difference in the number between this and last year being due to the fact that few cases comparatively have been sent to the

Adult Asylum, as the wards for the reception of imbeciles there have been practically full. However, 13 females were transferred from time to time, as vacancies occurred. Ten of these had improved under training, 1 had not improved, and 2 had deteriorated.

Seven boys and 5 girls were discharged improved, at the request of the Guardians, and 1 boy, having developed dangerous tendencies, was given over to the care of the parish authorities, for removal to a County Asylum.

Two boys and 2 girls have been discharged "recovered," being a percentage of 3·4 on the admissions. They have all been sent home to their friends. One of those discharged "recovered" in 1880 has written me a letter, informing me of his condition. He says:—"Sir, I now take the liberty to write you these few lines, hoping this will find you in good health, as, I am very pleased to say, I am at present. Sir, I have not had any fits since, and I hope I shall not have any more. I have only been a soldier for one week, and the drilling seems to keep them off, and I feel no signs of them at present. The money is small, but I took it instead of being in the workhouse, and so I took and walked down here, and passed the doctor, and got sworn in. I have seven years to serve in this regiment, and five in the Army Reserve."

DEATHS.

The death-rate—6·7 per cent. on the total number under treatment, or 7·9 per cent. on the average daily number resident—is higher than last year, but corresponds very nearly with the two preceding years, and bears out my remark in the Report for 1879, that, considering the class of

cases admitted, the percentage above given would be the average death-rate existing here. Two of the 39 deaths occurred in children between the ages of 2 and 4, and 2 in patients who had reached the latter age.

GENERAL HISTORY.

Nine cases of Measles and 3 of Chicken-pox have occurred. The former disease made its appearance in the month of May, the latter in September. The children were removed to the Infectious Infirmary, and the usual precautionary measures were taken. Both diseases were mild in type, and all the cases did well.

All the patients and the whole of the staff have been revaccinated during the year, in consequence of the establishment of the camp for convalescent cases of Smallpox at the back of the Adult Asylum, and it is gratifying to be able to report that no case of this disease appeared. In consequence of the impossibility of obtaining human lymph in sufficient quantity, calf lymph was used; and my opinion of it is that it is much more powerful and certain in its action, so far as revaccination is concerned, than that obtained from the human subject. The visiting of patients by their friends has been stopped during the existence of the camp, but all who wished to know the condition of the children were encouraged to write, and in answer more than 700 letters were dispatched by myself during the year. The relatives of some of the patients were also admitted to see them on producing orders from the Chairman or Clerk to the Board of Guardians.

I referred before to the number of epileptic and helpless cases admitted during the year, and I find that, of the 116 admissions, no less than 80, or more than two-thirds, belonged

to the epileptic or helpless class. There are, indeed, 165 epileptic patients, of whom 85 are helpless, now resident in the Schools, besides 121 helpless cases, and 63 who require to be washed and dressed daily. Excluding these, there are 286 patients who are subject to frequent illness, and require a considerable amount of care and attention.

In consequence of this, it is intended to convert a helpless ward on each side into a supplementary infirmary, in order to relieve the existing infirmaries, which are becoming overcrowded. A vehicle specially constructed to carry from 14 to 16 helpless children, and to be drawn by one of the horses round the grounds, is also in contemplation. This will be a great improvement, and so will be the laying out of the airing courts of the helpless wards (which at present have a dreary appearance) with shrubs and plants, among which those children who are able to do so can walk, while those who cannot may be wheeled about in the chairs which the Committee have provided. The provision for the wet cases of straw mattresses, to be changed once a week, which has also been decided upon, will help considerably to keep the air of the dormitories as pure as possible.

The workshops in the Schools have been re-opened, and there are now 23 boys working in the shoemaker's and 26 in the tailor's shop. Of these, 15 work whole and 34 half time. In the carpenter's shop one boy is at work. Those who work whole time will soon be removed to the Adult Asylum, being over 16 years of age, and the vacancies thus caused will be filled by children to whom we are now unable to teach these trades, as the shops are at present full.

Sixty-six girls are employed in household work. Thirty-

three of these, being over 16 years of age, have been withdrawn from the School, and are engaged in the laundry and kitchen, and in keeping clean the main corridor, offices, chapel, dining hall, and some of the wards. Of the remainder, some assist in the wards in the morning and go to School in the afternoon; while others, younger children, work in the dormitories in the early part of the morning and then attend School. I am glad to know that it is the intention of the Committee to retain from 40 to 50 girls over 16 years of age whom we have trained to do the household work, for when the big boys who now keep clean their side of the Schools are removed to the Adult Asylum, the greater part of the cleaning, &c., will fall upon the adult girls, though the laying down of linoleum in the main corridor will considerably reduce the work.

The number of children on the School Register on the 31st December, 1881, was 340, the largest number that have ever attended. In addition, many who are very restless and noisy are amused in the wards, until they have been sufficiently trained to attend School.

Amusements for the children have been fully provided. Cricket, football, and bat and ball are the games chiefly patronised by the boys, and skipping and playing with hoops by the girls. The recreation ground at the back of the School is a great boon, and is made use of when the daily and half holidays occur, though advantage of the fine weather is often taken to send the children out into the woods, where they gather flowers and ferns, and in the autumn go on blackberrying excursions. Picture-books, toys, and games are always in use, and some swings, which have been

put up in the wards, give much pleasure. Flowers and ferns grow in great quantities in the wards, and not only brighten them up, but are a source of interest to the patients.

Special entertainments have been given during the winter months, as in past years, and some of the more intelligent children are allowed to attend the nurses' weekly dance, to which they look forward with great interest.

Visitors to the Schools have been less numerous than before, perhaps in consequence of the adjacent Smallpox camp; but some German professors, who came over to the International Medical Congress this year, paid us a visit, and in the autumn Mrs. Brown, the wife of a proprietor of an asylum for imbecile children in America, came to see our work, accompanied by some friends. The Inspectors of the Local Government Board and the Commissioners in Lunacy have paid their usual visits.

During the year the healthy blocks have been heated by steam coils, so arranged that one can be attended to without interfering with the action of the others, and the result has been perfectly successful. The play-grounds have been gas-tarred, and the children can now get out to play much oftener than before. A night superintendent, whose duty it will be to see that the night nurses properly attend to their work, will soon be appointed, and the result will no doubt be increased efficiency on their part, which must be beneficial to the children.

The unoccupied healthy block on the female side has been opened, and filled with little boys, and into the blocks

vacated by them improved cases from the helpless wards have been drafted, so that every block in the Schools is occupied. The work of attending to the children, many of whom are in such delicate health, is now very heavy, and I hope the time will not be far distant when the Committee will find themselves in a position to give me an assistant medical officer.

The usual tables have been appended, with the exception of one showing the assigned causes of mental disorder of the patients admitted during the year. This table I have been unable to furnish, as the friends of patients, from whom alone the histories can be obtained, have been prevented from visiting, owing to the causes above-mentioned.

I have to thank the Officers for the help so freely accorded to me in the discharge of my duties, and the Committee for their continued support.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) FLETCHER BEACH, M.B., M.R.C.P.,

Medical Superintendent.

Darenth Schools, January, 1882.

TABLE I.
Showing the Admissions, Re-admissions, Discharges, and Deaths during the Year 1881.

		Male.	Female.	Total.
In the Asylum, 1st January, 1881	...	285	179	464
Admitted for the first time during the Year	...	66	48	114
Re-admitted during the Year	...			
	...	1	1	2
Total under care during the Year	...	352	228	580
Discharged or Removed—		2	2	4
Recovered	...			
*Relieved	...	7	15	22
Not Improved	...	1	3	4
Died	...	22	17	39
Total Discharged (for various reasons) and Died during the Year	...	32	37	69
Remaining in the Asylum, 31st December, 1881	...	320	191	511
Average numbers resident during the Year	...	297.5	192.0	489.5
Highest number resident on any one day	...	324	196	520
Lowest number resident on any one day	...	280	183	463

* Of these, 10 Females were removed to the Adult Asylum, having improved under training in the Schools.

TABLE II.

Showing the Admissions, Re-admissions, and Discharges, from the opening of the Asylum to the present date, 31st December, 1881.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Admitted during the period of 7 years	606	427	1033
Re-admissions	2	5	7
Total of Cases Admitted	608	432	1040
Discharged or Removed—			
Recovered	10	10	20
Relieved	45	34	79
Not Improved	121	102	223
Died	112	95	207
Total Discharged and Died during the 7 years	288	241	529
Remaining, 31st December, 1881	320	191	511
Average numbers resident during the 7 years	218.2	159.4	377.6

TABLE III.

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Showing the Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths, with the mean Annual Mortality and proportion of Recoveries per cent. of the Admissions for each year since the opening of the Asylum.

YEAR.	ADMITTED.			DISCHARGED.									DIED.			Remaining 31st December in each year.			Average Numbers Resident.			Percentage of Recoveries on Admissions.			Percentage of Deaths on Average Number Resident		
				Recovered.			Relieved.			Not Improved.																	
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
1875 ...	213	164	377	...	...	...	2	1	3	30	20	50	13	11	24	168	132	300	137·6	125·1	262·7	...	...	...	9·44	8·79	9·13
1876 ...	76	44	120	...	...	...	2	...	2	25	18	43	23	21	44	194	137	331	182·9	136·9	319·8	...	...	...	12·5	13·3	13·7
1877 ...	32	24	56	2	1	3	4	2	6	4	9	13	10	5	15	206	144	350	201·1	140·5	341·6	6·25	4·16	5·35	4·97	3·55	4·39
1878 ...	53	20	73	2	2	4	4	2	6	39	7	46	18	10	28	196	143	339	203·6	144·1	347·7	3·77	10·0	5·47	8·84	6·93	8·05
1879 ...	90	65	155	2	3	5	3	1	4	12	...	12	15	15	30	254	189	443	238·7	176·4	415·1	2·22	4·61	3·22	6·29	8·50	7·22
1880 ...	77	66	143	2	2	4	23	13	36	10	45	55	11	16	27	285	179	464	266·6	201·0	467·6	2·59	3·3	2·79	4·12	7·96	5·66
1881 ...	67	49	116	2	2	4	7	15	22	1	3	4	22	17	39	320	191	511	297·5	192·0	489·5	2·98	4·8	3·44	7·42	8·85	7·96
Totals	608	432	1,040	10	10	20	45	34	79	121	102	223	112	95	207	...	...	...	218·2	159·4	377·6	...	...	...	...	...	...

TABLE IV.

*Showing the Ages of the Patients resident in the Asylum
on the 31st December, 1881.*

Ages.				Males.	Females.	Total.
From 2 to 4 years	...	...		4	1	5
„ 4 to 6 „	...	...		14	8	22
„ 6 to 8 „	...	...		32	12	44
„ 8 to 10 „	...	...		44	23	67
„ 10 to 12 „	...	...		48	29	77
„ 12 to 14 „	...	...		52	34	86
„ 14 to 16 „	...	...		75	45	120
16 „	...	...		28	8	36
17 „	...	...		18	7	25
18 „	...	...		2	6	8
19 „	...	...		1	6	7
20 „	...	...		1	3	4
Over 20 „		1	9	10
Total ...				320	191	511

TABLE V.

Omitted for the reason given in Report.

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TABLE VII.

Showing the Causes of Death during the year 1881, together with the Ages of the Decedents.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	2 to 4		4 to 6		6 to 8		8 to 10		10 to 12		12 to 14		14 to 16		16		17		TOTAL.		
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	TOTALS
CEREBRAL OR SPINAL DISEASES :—																					
Epilepsy and Convulsions ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	3	2	...	...	...	...	4	4	8
Inflammation and other Diseases of the Brain, Softening, Tumours, &c. ...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	3
THORACIC DISEASE :—																					
Inflammation of the Lungs, Pleuræ, and Bronchi... ..	1	1	1	1	1	...	1	...	1	1	...	1	2	1	...	...	1	...	8	5	13
Pulmonary Consumption ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
ABDOMINAL DISEASE :—																					
Diarrhœa ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	3	4
Marasmus ... ..	...	...	1	2	1	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	3	7
Disease of Hip and Leg ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Totals	1	1	2	3	4	2	4	2	3	1	2	1	5	7	...	...	1	...	22	17	39

TABLE VI.

Showing the History of the Annual Admissions since the opening of the Asylum, with the Discharges and Deaths, and the numbers remaining on the 31st December of each year, and of the year reported on.

Admitted.						Of each year's Admissions, Discharged, and Died in, 1881.												Total Discharged and Died of each year's Admissions to 31st December, 1881.												Remaining of each year's Admissions on 31st December, 1881.		
Year.	New Cases		Relapsed Cases.		Total	Recovered.			Relieved.			Not Improved.			Died.			Recovered.			Relieved.			Not Improved.			Died.					
	Males	Females	Males	Females		Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total			
1875	213	164	...	...	377	...	...	...	1	3	4	1	1	2	...	2	2	3	2	5	21	10	31	88	71	159	54	40	94	47	41	88
1876	76	44	...	...	120	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	3	2	5	9	4	13	14	19	33	16	11	27	34	8	42
1877	32	24	...	...	56	...	1	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	2	2	3	1	4	6	4	10	6	7	13	17	10	27
1878	53	19	...	1	73	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	3	3	6	5	1	6	5	3	8	40	13	53	
1879	89	64	1	1	155	...	...	...	2	4	6	...	1	1	7	2	9	2	3	5	5	9	14	8	2	10	16	17	33	59	34	93
1880	77	65	...	1	143	1	...	1	3	5	8	...	1	1	9	5	14	1	...	1	4	6	10	...	5	5	11	10	21	61	45	106
1881	66	48	1	1	116	1	1	2	...	1	1	...	...	...	4	7	11	1	1	2	...	1	1	...	...	...	4	7	11	62	40	102
	606	428	2	4	1,040	2	2	4	7	15	22	1	3	4	22	17	39	10	10	20	45	34	79	121	102	223	112	95	207	320	191	511

SUMMARY OF THE TOTAL ADMISSIONS.

Percentage of cases—										Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.
Recovered	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1·64	2·31	1·92
Relieved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7·40	7·87	7·59
Not Improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19·9	23·6	21·4
Dead	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18·4	21·9	19·9
Remaining	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25·6	44·2	49·1

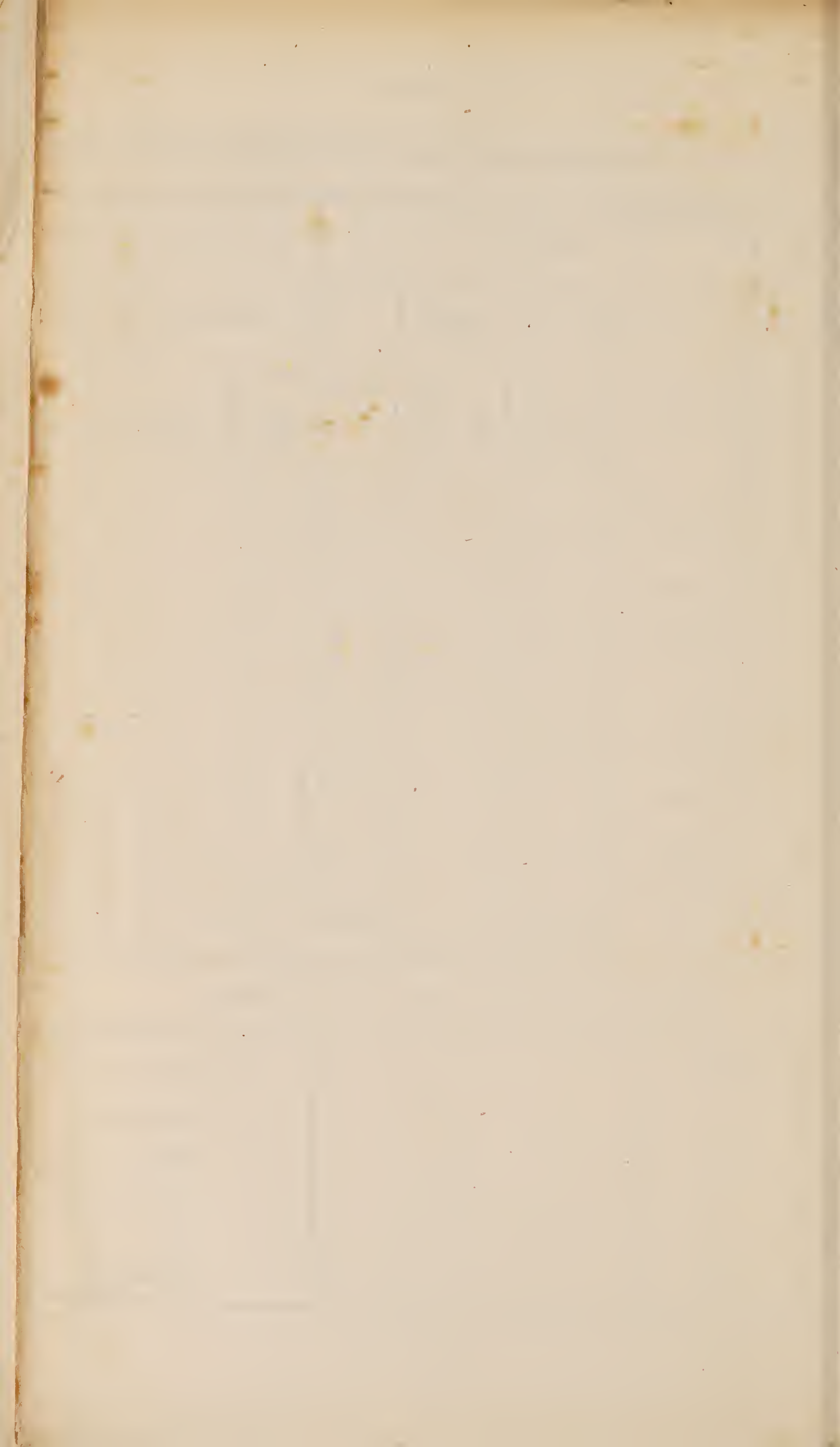


TABLE VIII.

*Showing the Length of Residence in those discharged Recovered,
and in those who have died during the year.*

LENGTH OF RESIDENCE.	RECOVERED.			DIED.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Under 1 Month ...	1	...	1	...	3	3
From 1 to 3 Months ...	...	1	1	3	1	4
„ 3 „ 6 „ ...	...	...	...	2	3	5
„ 6 „ 9 „ ...	...	...	...	3	3	6
„ 9 „ 12 „ ...	...	...	...	4	2	6
„ 1 to 2 Years ...	1	...	1	4	1	5
„ 2 „ 3 „ ...	...	...	...	5	1	6
„ 3 „ 5 „ ...	...	1	1	1	...	1
„ 5 „ 7 „ ...	...	...	...	...	3	3
„ 7 „ 10 „ ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ 10 „ 12 „ ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	2	2	4	22	17	39



TABLE IX.

Showing the Ages of Patients admitted into the Asylum on 31st December in each year ; calculated from the Ages stated on the Orders of Admission.

Years ending December 31st.	2 to 4		4 to 6		6 to 8		8 to 10		10 to 12		12 to 14		14 to 16		16		17		18		19		Over 20		TOTALS.		
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1875 ...	...	...	13	7	21	11	33	22	39	27	34	28	51	28	14	8	7	7	1	3	...	...	...	23	213	164	377
1876 ...	2	2	7	1	10	9	13	8	18	1	9	6	13	11	4	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	76	44	120
1877 ...	...	1	4	2	3	2	7	5	7	5	5	1	5	8	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32	24	56
1878 ...	...	...	5	1	12	3	5	2	12	3	13	7	5	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	53	20	73
1879 ...	5	5	10	6	18	9	13	7	12	13	13	10	18	14	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	90	65	155
1880 ...	3	2	10	7	16	7	12	11	8	7	14	10	13	17	...	2	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	77	66	143
1881 ...	3	3	8	2	11	10	12	10	9	8	11	6	13	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	67	49	116
Total	13	13	57	26	91	51	95	65	105	64	99	68	118	92	20	13	9	9	1	3	...	...	...	28	608	432	1040





TABLE XI.

Showing the Departments where Patients were employed on the 31st December, 1881.

MALES.		FEMALES.	
Departments.	Numbers Employed.	Departments.	Numbers Employed.
Blocks	Laundry ...	14
Coaling	Work Room ...	1
Mess Room	Helpers in Blocks ...	31
Tailor's Shop	Corridor and Dining Hall ...	14
Shoemaker's Shop	Mess Room ...	1
Carpenter's Shop	Kitchen ...	5
Total ...	129	Total ...	66

TABLE XII.
Showing Grades of Work in Tailor's and Shoemaker's Shops.

Occupations of Boys.	Number employed in each grade, with quality of work.				Total number employed.
	Indifferent.	Fair.	Good.	Excellent.	
I. TAILORING.					
1. Preliminary work ...	4	2	26 Tailors (7 whole time). 6 4 ... 1 11 4
2. Sewing Linings or Seams ...	...	1	3	...
3. Felling ...	...	...	...	...
4. Button-holing ...	...	1	...	...
5. Repairing ...	1	6	4	...	
6. Machining ...	...	...	4	...
II. SHOEMAKING.					
1. Preliminary work ...	2	...	3	...	23 Shoemakers (8 whole time). 5 6 4 3 5
2. Closing Uppers ...	...	...	...	6
3. Repairing ...	...	1	3	...
4. Finishing ...	...	1	2	...
5. Riveting ...	...	2	2	1

REPORT OF THE MATRON AND SCHOOLMISTRESS
OF THE SCHOOLS WITH REGARD TO THE
WORK OF THE MATRON'S DEPARTMENT.

1st January, 1882.

To the Chairman and Committee of the Darenth Schools.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my First Annual Report.

During the past year the work in the kitchen and laundry has been very heavy, as we had to do the cooking and washing for the Adult Asylum as well as for the Schools; the meals of 735 patients and 111 attendants and staff being cooked, and 22,783 articles of clothing passing through the laundry weekly. One kitchen and scullery-maid and two laundry-maids additional were engaged to do the extra duty, and a man to work the machinery. As this latter occupation is always very heavy, and scarcely fitted for a woman, I trust that this arrangement will continue.

A great portion of the scrubbing on the girls' side of the building is done by 33 trained adult girls, who have been stationed in one of the empty blocks under the charge of two attendants. I am pleased to hear that the Committee will allow us to keep them; but when the 70 boys, many of whom have been taught to do household work, are transferred

to the Adult Asylum, I shall require more girls or scrubbers to do the work on the male side.

The clothing and bedding of the children is in a satisfactory condition, and we continue to give three changes of linen to each child, and three changes of clothing to each helpless patient. The stock of flannel vests in each ward has been increased, so as to allow them to be washed once a week, or oftener if necessary.

During the year the following articles of clothing have been made :—

Uniform dresses	...	...	...	240
Patients' dresses	...	...	...	340
Bibs and scarves	...	...	...	583
Night dresses ...	...	...	...	14
Aprons ...	...	...	...	252
Upper petticoats	...	...	...	36
Pinafores ...	...	...	...	31
Shrouds...	...	...	...	36
Flannel jackets	...	...	...	9
Flannel vests ...	...	...	...	56
Flannel petticoats	...	...	...	40
Flannel drawers	...	...	...	16
Shirts ...	...	...	...	24
Handkerchiefs ...	...	...	...	72
Kitchen cloths ...	...	...	...	44
Small shawls ...	...	...	...	44
Sheets ...	...	...	...	30
Towels ...	...	...	...	134
Green blinds ...	...	...	...	18

Hoods ...	...	...	...	...	48
Counterpanes ...	...	...	...	...	100
Chair cushions ...	...	...	...	...	46
Dusters ...	...	...	...	...	12

List of articles made by patients in the Schoolroom :—

Pudding cloths ...	...	...	...	...	48
Chemises ...	...	...	...	...	22
Shirts ...	...	...	...	...	28
Aprons ...	...	...	...	...	9
Pinafores ...	...	...	...	...	86
Dresses ...	...	...	...	...	5
Hoods ...	...	...	...	...	12
Towels ...	...	...	...	...	56
Tea cloths ...	...	...	...	...	156
Handkerchiefs ...	...	...	...	...	312

Our work list is lower this year, for in consequence of the helpless and weak condition of the new cases admitted, the nurses have had to give more attention to the children, and have not been able to do the same amount of needlework in the wards as in former years. More work has also been thrown upon the work-mistress, in consequence of the opening of the block for little boys, and the larger number of patients resident than before. In addition, a large amount of mending and repairing has been done.

A superior class of attendants, at an increased salary, has been engaged to take charge of the helpless wards, and amuse those children who, from restlessness and noisy behaviour, are unable to attend school.

I am glad to find that it is contemplated to set apart two days a week on which the nurses may take their daily leave, instead of one as before, for a less number of nurses will be absent during the day, and therefore more attention can be given to the children. The behaviour of the nurses generally has been good, and no "good conduct money" has been stopped during the year.

There is to be a night superintendent appointed to take charge of the building at night, and to see that the night nurses do their duties in a satisfactory manner.

Thanking you for your support and kindness during the past year,

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) ELLEN WRIGHT,

Matron and Head Schoolmistress.

Darenth Schools.

REPORT OF MATRON AND SCHOOLMISTRESS
WITH REGARD TO THE SCHOOL WORK.

January, 1882.

To the Chairman and Committee of the Darenth Schools.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the Seventh Annual Report of the progress made in the Schools.

Of the 511 patients in the Schools on the 31st December, 1881,

34 were adult women,

54 were patients over 16 years of age,

342 were children attending School,

81 were in Probationary, Helpless, Infirmary, or
Epileptic Wards.

511

Of the 342 children attending School,

298 attend whole time,

44 attend half time.

342

The average attendance has been 244.

As the Committee are aware, the children are divided into 7 classes:—

CLASS I.—This class consists of 50 children, namely—18 girls (6 of whom attend school in the afternoon only, being employed during the morning in the wards to assist in making beds, &c.) and 32 boys (22 of whom work in the shops half the day).

In this class all the children read, write, draw, and work sums, from simple addition to compound long division.

Reading.—15 boys and 11 girls read fairly (some fluently) from 1st and 2nd Standard Reading books, 7 girls and 17 boys read from the Primer. The children in this class spell words of one, two, and some of three syllables.

Writing.—The whole of these children write copies and transcribe from books, either on slates or in exercise books. In addition to the above, 8 boys and 9 girls write dictation in books, and 8 boys and 8 girls compose letters, or write out lessons upon animals, articles of food, and common objects. The rest write dictation on slates.

Arithmetic.—Of the 50 children, 4 girls and 12 boys work simple addition, either mentally or with strokes; 4 girls and 5 boys addition and subtraction; 2 girls and 7 boys the above with multiplication; 4 girls and 2 boys the same and short division; and 3 boys and 2 girls are working in the compound rules.

Sewing.—All the girls in this class make articles of clothing, 4 work the sewing machine, and 7 girls and 2 boys knit stockings.

CLASS II.—Consists of 12 girls and 33 boys, making a total of 45. Out of these 9 boys work in the shops half the day, and 1 girl assists in the wards during the morning.

Reading.—All the children in this class read either from the Primer or from picture cards. These children spell words of one syllable, and simple words of two syllables.

Writing.—Of the 45 children, 34 write in copy books; 27 of these transcribe either on slates or in books, and 21 write on slates dictation of words or simple sentences.

Arithmetic.—26 work simple addition; 12 addition and subtraction and multiplication sums; 1 the above and division.

Sewing.—All the girls in this class assist in making articles of clothing, and 2 have learnt to knit.

CLASS III.—Contains 28 boys and 15 girls, making a total of 43. Out of these 17 boys and 4 girls know all the letters of the alphabet, and can read little words; the remainder, 6 in number, letters to 19 or 20. 11 boys and 5 girls can write the alphabet and little words, the rest some of the letters.

Spelling.—Words of two, three, four, five, and six letters.

Sewing.—5 girls sew well enough to make articles of clothing, the others hem dusters, &c., and 1 girl has learnt to knit. The children in this class add and subtract with cubes to 20, and some of them can add on the black-board the same number in figures.

CLASS IV.—In this class there are 47 children, 22 of whom are girls and 25 boys, most of them either too old to learn much, or children who are not so bright as others in a higher class at the same age. These children write the alphabet on slates, and some read words of 2, 3, 4, and 5 letters, while others only know a few of the letters. Counting and adding are taught by means of cubes, and a few make figures to 20 on slates. The girls hem towels, handkerchiefs, and dusters.

CLASS V.—Consists of 10 girls and 29 boys. The children in this class are either deaf, dumb, or speechless, and are taught to read by the manual alphabet. 10 read fairly from any book given to them, and of the rest some are able to form the letters in simple words, and others the alphabet. Adding and counting are taught by means of cubes and figures on the black-board. Some of the children in this class are very clever in matching colours, threading beads, and “paper-plaiting.” The girls (those who can hold the needle properly) hem dusters, and 2 can knit very quickly indeed.

CLASS VI.—Consists of 19 girls and 40 boys. These children are very restless, and some of them very destructive, taxing very greatly the patience of their teachers. Attempts are made to teach them to read and write the alphabet, also singing, marching, and counting, and very simple lessons on common objects.

CLASS VII.—This class contains 18 girls and 41 boys. In this class are children of all ages from 3 years old to 14 years. Some can talk, and others are speechless. Toys, swings, and a rocking-horse are provided for their amuse-

ment, and a few will sing or scribble on a slate; but when any sign of improvement is observed, the child is put into another class, where there is more chance of encouragement by seeing other children working. 8 children have been taught to talk during the year.

Much more needlework has been done by the children in the Schoolroom compared with former years.

The following is the List of Work :—

Chemises	...	...	...	...	22
Shirts	...	...	...	...	28
Aprons	...	...	...	...	9
Pinafores	...	...	...	...	86
Dresses	...	...	...	...	5
Hoods	...	...	...	...	12
Towels	...	...	...	...	56
Tea cloths	...	...	...	...	156
Handkerchiefs	...	...	...	...	312
Pudding cloths	...	...	...	...	48
Total	...	...	...	...	<u>734</u>

Knitting was first taught in September, 1881, and since that time 10 pairs of socks and 2 pairs of stockings have been finished. 20 children have learnt to knit.

Great praise is due to the attendants in the helpless wards, who have taught several children to walk sufficiently well to attend School. The swings have been found of great use, for the children, by resting their feet on the floor, have gained confidence, and learnt to walk more quickly than

they otherwise would have done. I am pleased to be able to inform the Committee that great improvement has taken place in the behaviour of the children in the wards at meal times; nearly all remain still while grace is being said, and a great many have learnt to eat with a spoon off a plate, instead of snatching a handful of food and running about the ward while eating it, as was formerly the case.

I cannot conclude this Report without acknowledging the great assistance which I have received from Miss Hoatson in the management of the School, whose devotion to her duties deserves great praise.

Thanking you for the interest you have taken in the School during the past year,

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed)

F. ELLEN WRIGHT,

Matron and Schoolmistress.

Darent Schools.

DARENTH SCHOOLS.—TIME TABLE.

MORNING.						AFTERNOON.					
		10.0 to 10.30.	10.30 to 11.15.	11.15 to 11.45.	11.45 to 12.0.	2.0 to 2.30.	2.30 to 3.15.	3.15 to 3.45.	3.45 to 4.0.		6.30 to 7.0.
Monday	1 2 3 4	Sums, Reading, Writing, { Counting and Tables.	Drawing, Paper Plaiting, Sewing, } Industrial Lesson	Nat. Hist. Lesson, Sums, Reading, Writing.	Spelling, ,, Drilling, ,,	Reading, Transcribing, Drawing, Reading.	Dictation, Drawing, Figures. Personal Appearance.	Sums, Reading, Colour and Clock. Drawing.	Singing & Repeating ,, ,, ,,	1 2	Puzzles, Toys, and Picture Books.
Tuesday	1 2 3 4	Indus. Lesson, Shop Lesson, Writing, Stick Plaiting.	Composition, &c., { Nu. No. and Rom. Figs. } Add. and Subtract., Sewing.	Reading, Object Lesson, Stick Plaiting, Writing.	Mental Arith., } Kinder Garten Games.	G 1, 2, Sewing, B 1, 2, Counting, Reading, Drawing.	Sewing, Writing, Industrial Lesson, Add. and Subtract.	Colour and Clock. Reading, Drawing, Paper Plaiting,	Tables, ,, Singing & Repeating ,,	1 2	Singing. ,,
Wednesday...	1 2 3 4	Tables, &c., Sums, Reading, Writing.	Transcribing, Industrial Lesson, Paper Plaiting, Tables, &c.	Sums, Drawing, Object Lesson, Reading.	} Singing and Repeating.		HALF	HOLIDAY.			
Thursday ...	1 2 3 4	Reading, Spelling, Writing, Reading.	Copy Books, Dictation, Sewing, Writing.	Object Lesson, Reading, Personal Appearance, Paper Plaiting.	Drilling, ,, Counting, ,,	Reading, Sums, Paper Plaiting, Object Lesson.	Writing, Figures, &c., Add. and Subtract., Colour and Clock.	Sums, Reading, Colour and Clock, Drawing.	Singing & Repeating ,, ,, ,,	1 2	Dance. ,,
Friday	1 2 3 4	Sums, Colour & Clock, Reading, Colour & Clock.	{ Nu. No. and Rom. Figs. } Transcribing, Shop Lesson, Sewing.	Colour and Clock. Sums, Drawing, Figures.	Tables, } Kinder Garten Games.	G 1, 2, Sewing, B 1, 2, Spelling, Add. & Subtract., Counting, &c.	Sewing, Drawing, Sewing, Reading.	Object Lesson, Mental Arith., Writing, Paper Plaiting.		1 2	Games. ,,
Saturday ...	1 2 3 4	Spelling, Reading, Paper Plaiting, Reading.	Paper Plaiting, Copy Books, Add. and Subtract., Sewing.	Sums, Nat. Hist. Lesson, Writing, Drawing.	} Singing and Repeating.		HALF	HOLIDAY.			

Between each Lesson, Singing and Marching.

April, 1881.

(Signed)

F. ELLEN WRIGHT.

5TH CLASS TIME TABLE—SPEECHLESS.

	10.0 to 10.30 a.m. 2.0 to 2.30 p.m.	10.30 to 11.15 a.m. 2.30 to 3.15 p.m.	11.15 to 11.45 a.m. 3.15 to 3.45 p.m.
Monday ... {	Writing—K.R. Beads—K.R.	Reading—S.L. Lesson on Senses—K.R.	Colour and Clock—K.R. Add. and Subtract.—C.R.
Tuesday ... {	Cubes—K.R. Writing—K.R.	Reading—C.R. Drawing—K.R.	Paper Plaiting—K.R. Pictures—J.R.
Wednesday ...	Colour and Clock—K.R.	Sewing, &c.—S.L.	Writing—K.R.
Thursday ... {	Writing—K.R. Object Lesson—C.R.	Reading—S.L. Perforated Board—K.R.	Cubes—K.R. Kinder-Garten Games.
Friday ... {	Drawing—S.D. Nat. Hist. Lesson—K.R.	Reading—S.L. Sewing, &c.—J.R.	Writing—K.R. Paper Plaiting—K.R.
Saturday ...	Cubes—K.R.	Personal Appearance—J.R.	Writing—K.R.

6TH AND 7TH CLASSES TIME TABLE.

		10.0 to 10.30 a.m. 2.0 to 2.30 p.m.	10.30 to 11.15 a.m. 2.30 to 3.15 p.m.	11.15 to 11.45 a.m. 3.15 to 3.45 p.m.
Monday	{	Reading, Lesson on Senses.	Writing, Natural History Lesson.	Personal Appearance, Writing.
Tuesday	{	Shop Lesson, Reading.	Colour and Clock, Writing and Sewing.	Marching, &c., Singing.
Wednesday ... ..	...	Counting.	Cubes.	Kinder-Garten Games.
Thursday	{	Reading, Drawing.	German Target, Object Lesson.	Paper Plaiting, Games, &c.
Friday	{	Counting, Reading.	Colour and Clock, Writing.	Marching, &c., Personal Appearance.
Saturday ... ..	...	Natural History Lesson.	Writing and Sewing.	Kinder-Garten Games.

(Signed) F. ELLEN WRIGHT.

REPORT OF THE STEWARD OF THE ASYLUM AND SCHOOLS.

*To the Chairman and Committee of the Darenth Asylum and
Schools.*

GENTLEMEN,

January, 1882.

I have the honour to present my Report for 1881.

The Adult Asylum was formally opened for the reception of imbeciles early in the year, and every arrangement made for their due care and treatment.

After the Asylum had been in working order for a few months only, the Committee felt themselves constrained, in consequence of the severe epidemic of Smallpox in London, to close the Asylum, so far as receiving adult patients was concerned, and rapidly convert those portions of it (including the whole of the Administrative Block) not already occupied by imbeciles to the use of the Smallpox Convalescent patients sent down from London.

This plan was carried out, and upwards of 2,700 Convalescent patients were admitted and treated in the Asylum and tents erected in the grounds for that purpose.

In the meantime the administration of the blocks occupied by adult imbeciles was carried on from the School Asylum in a similar manner to that adopted during nine months of the year 1880.

The tailor's and shoemaker's shops have been continued

as in previous years, and I beg to annex a statement of work done, and the money value of the patients' labour in this direction during the past year.

The Farm books show a slight loss during the year 1881, a fact to be mainly attributed to so much of the land having been occupied by the Smallpox Camp, after the ground had been worked and planted with potatoes, from which no return-crop was derived. So far, however, as the stock on the Farm is concerned, a considerable profit is shown, and it is to be hoped that next year will show a similar result for the Farm proper.

The stock at present on Farm consists of 7 horses, 22 cows, 130 sheep, and about 150 pigs.

The machinery generally has worked well, and no hitch or inconvenience worth speaking of has occurred. During the summer months about 80,000 gallons of water were consumed daily in the two Asylums and Camp.

Very few changes have occurred amongst the Staff in the Steward's department in either of the Asylums, and everything appears to be working satisfactorily and in order.

In conclusion, I have to tender to the Committee my sincere thanks for their continued kindness and support, and remain,

Gentlemen,

Very obediently yours,

(Signed) A. KEATON GOWER,
Steward.

TAILOR'S SHOP, 1881.

New Jackets ...	...	...	...	224
„ Vests ...	...	...	...	136
„ Trousers ...	...	...	...	308
General Repairs	...	...	...	3,512
Value of Work	...	...	...	£92 8s. 8d.

SHOEMAKER'S SHOP, 1881.

Men's Boots made	...	...	221 pairs.
Women's do.	...	...	476 „
Value of Work	...	...	... £83 5s. 5d.

REPORT OF THE CHAPLAIN OF THE ASYLUM AND SCHOOLS.

The Chaplain has the honour to present his Report to the Committee.

During the past year nothing has occurred in the performance of his duties to call for any very special remark.

The usual Services have been regularly and faithfully performed. They have been uniformly well attended, and are much appreciated by the patients, who are always quiet and well-behaved.

In consequence of the crowded state of the Chapel, it has been found necessary to increase the number of Services. The new arrangement works well, and seems to give general satisfaction.

No exertion is spared to make the hours spent in the performance of Divine worship bright and attractive. Whatever measure of success in this direction has been achieved is largely owing to the efforts of the organist (Miss Bashford) and those to whose care the children are committed. It is hoped that when the new organ which the Committee have kindly promised is erected, the music of the Asylum Chapel will bear favourable comparison with some of the neighbouring churches. The present harmonium is very small and ineffective.

Both the Schools and the Asylum for adult patients have been regularly and systematically visited. The sick have been offered such consolation and instruction as they were capable of receiving, and the dying, whose mental condition at the last so often renders it impossible for them to profit by the teaching of the Chaplain, have been solemnly committed by prayer to the care and keeping of Almighty God.

The Office for the Burial of the Dead, although always carefully and reverently performed, lacks the solemnity imparted to the ceremony by the tolling of the bell, as required by the Rubric and Canons of the Church. The cemetery is unfortunately without this usual adjunct. Although trifling and unimportant in itself, it is looked for and valued by mourners. The attendance also of the deceased patient's particular friends *within* the Asylum at the funeral, the Chaplain thinks would be valued, if occasionally permitted, and might have a good effect.

The Chaplain is encouraged to make these suggestions by the knowledge that the Committee of Managers have always most kindly and readily given him their valuable aid in his important work. He begs to take this opportunity of thanking them most warmly for their unvarying kindness and consideration.

The Chaplain also desires to acknowledge with gratitude the assistance and sympathy which the whole body of his brother officers in both Asylums have given him in the performance of his duties, and which have done so much to make his work at Darenth a labour of love.

REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS IN LUNACY.

Metropolitan District School and Asylum for Imbeciles,

Darenth, *December* 16, 1881.

This day we visited these Institutions, and found at the Schools that there are now 519 persons—323 of the male and 196 of the female sex. These figures show an increase of 37 in the former and 18 in the latter sex, since our colleagues last visited the Institution nearly a year ago.

The changes have been as follows:—

				M.	F.	Total.
Admitted	...	...	...	66	49	115
Discharged	...	...	...	8	16	24
Died	...	...	...	21	15	36

The patients discharged were dealt with thus:—7 boys and 6 girls were discharged at the request of the Guardians; 9 females, being over age, were transferred to the Adult Asylum; 1 boy, who had become dangerous to the other patients, was sent to a County Asylum, and 1 girl left on recovery.

Considering how large a number of the children under treatment here are epileptic, feeble, and helpless cases, the general health was satisfactory; and we saw, during our inspection of the Institution, 14 boys and 7 girls in bed. The majority of the deaths which have occurred since the last visit have been due to disease of the lungs, which proved fatal in 15 cases; epilepsy removed 6; marasmus, 7; brain disease, 3; diarrhoea, 4; and 1 died from disease of the hip and leg.

We saw all the children as well at lessons as at play, and were much pleased with the progress made by several of the children, a few of whom it appeared to us might be sufficiently instructed to enable them in after years to earn (in part at least) their own living. The energy and care displayed in educating these children is highly creditable to the Staff. There are four governesses and four school attendants engaged in tuition, and they are superintended by Miss Wright, who is both Matron and Schoolmistress.

Toys and picture-books are provided in sufficient quantity, and some swings have been placed in the wards, which appear to be a source of much pleasure.

The Camp of convalescent Smallpox cases was set up some time ago at the back of the Adult building, and there it still remains. No patient here has been attacked by the disease. One of the evils that has arisen from the proximity of this Camp is that all visiting of relatives has been put a stop to. As a precautionary measure, all the children and staff have been revaccinated. It may not be out of place, with reference to this Camp, to state that the Medical Officer of the Woolwich Infirmary, writing to our Office very recently, said: "The patients mentioned in my return as not being proper persons to be kept in this Infirmary would have been sent long ago to one of the Metropolitan District Asylums had there been accommodation for them. The continued use of the Darenth Asylum as a Smallpox Camp, and the great demand for vacancies at Caterham, compel me to keep them here to the annoyance of the other patients."

In consequence of the increasing number of patients (there are 55 more than were here at the last visit), the block hitherto unoccupied, but intended for healthy girls, has been opened and filled with healthy boys, whilst the better class of boys from the helpless ward have been drafted into the block vacated by the healthy boys. All the blocks are now occupied.

The work of scrubbing and cleaning the Asylum is at present done by 36 adult girls, who have been trained in the school. We hear it is proposed to send these girls to the Adult Asylum, and that other adult women from the Asylum are to be sent over daily to do the household work. This does not seem to us to be a satisfactory arrangement, and we think that those persons who have had the care and trouble of educating these women have the prior claim on their services. There is very much scrubbing to be done, and 4 girls were, at the time of our visit, suffering from "housemaid's knee." If linoleum were laid down in the main corridor, some of this work would be lessened.

Twenty-five boys were transferred last year to the Adult Asylum.

They had been employed in the tailor's and shoemaker's shops, and these shops were, therefore, necessarily closed for a time, but they are now again open, and some boys are being taught these trades. Amongst the various improvements which have taken place since the last visit, we must notice that the day-rooms and dormitories of the five healthy blocks are heated by steam. There are 12 steam coils in each block, so arranged that, should any coil get out of order, the steam can be shut off from that one, whilst the other coils remain in use. The hot-water boilers have now only to supply heat to the infirmaries, epileptic, and helpless blocks. The play-grounds are being gas-tarred, and on the male side the work is finished with one exception, but on the girls' side it has only just been commenced.

Amongst other subjects which we hope will receive the notice of the Committee we desire to call attention to the woodwork round the baths. It should be polished, as from continual friction splinters are occasioned, which must be painful to the children. The sinks in the dormitories are unsightly, and possibly offensive at times, and we should like to see them outside the rooms.

At the Adult Hospital we saw 24 young men and 196 women. Since the last visit 25 women have been admitted, 1 male and 7 females discharged, and 22 of the latter sex have died from causes common in Asylums, and requiring no comment from us. Owing to the Smallpox Camp referred to above, there is only room for 5 more patients here. The building was in fair order, but something requires to be done to the chimneys in the male dormitory, which were smoking badly. The means of amusement for these patients are scanty. There are no associated gatherings and no recreation hall. The women are in two blocks of nearly 100 in each, under the care of 5 nurses to each block. Considering that about 60 patients are epileptics, the staff cannot be considered too strong. There is a night nurse for each block on the female side, but for the males there is only one attendant in all.

We had no complaints except on the score of illegal detention, and the visits of friends having been stopped since last May. We find ourselves in a difficult position when the patients complain of their detention here, as we cannot discover that there is any legal warrant

or authority for depriving the 220 patients here of their liberty. They appeared in fair bodily health, and only 10 were under medical treatment last week. In conclusion, we must express our regret that Dr. Beach has not been allowed an assistant to aid him in the charge of over 500 children; but he must, before he can leave the school, communicate with Dr. Dyer, the Superintendent of the Asylum, and *vice versa*, so that two medical officers, having entirely separate and distinct authority, and quite independent of each other, are in the unsatisfactory position of having as it were to ask each other's leave to be absent from duty for a single hour. It is right to state that, though Dr. Beach shows much energy and care for the children under his charge, we consider that no one man can properly look after 519 children of the class received here.

(Signed)

W. E. FRERE,

ROBERT NAIRNE,

Commissioners in Lunacy.

